(d) if so, the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Lanka IOC (India Oil Corporation) Pvt. Ltd. and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation/Government of Sri Lanka signed on February 7,2003 an agreement whereby the latter has agreed to lease the storage facility and the land appurtenant thereto of the China Bay Installation at Tricomalee consisting of 99 storage tanks for oil for a period 35 years.

(b) Former Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, and the Defence Attache in the Mission did travel to Trincodmalee in April 2002.

(c) and (d) The Indo-Sri Lanka accord 1987 has been overtaken by political developments in Sri Lanka, especially the Ceasefire Agreement entered into by the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in February 2002.

Indian Fishermen in foreign jails

3639. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fishermen in the jails of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last week of February 2003, Pakistan freed 280 Indian fishermen; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to get released of the Indian fishermen from foreign jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Pakistan—As per information available as on 10.04.2003, 245 Indian fishermen and 42 boats are currently detained in Pakistan.

Myanmar—As per information available with our Mission, there are 5 fishermen stated to be Indian nationals who are in Myanmar jails for more than six months.

Bangladesh—There are 7 Indian fishermen in Bangladesh Jails.

Maldives—There are no Indian fishermen in jail in Maldives.

Sri Lanka—There are at present 30 fishermen and 37 boats as on April 9, 2003 in custody of Sri Lanka authorities.

(b) Pakistan released 280 Indian fishermen and 44 boats on February 24, 2003. They were repatriated to India on February 28, 2003.

(c) Government immediately takes up the issue of release and repatriation of Indian fishermen with the Governments of Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Release is normally prompt, except in the case of Pakistan, after established procedure is followed including regular contact through diplomatic channels, confirmation of identity and gaining consular access.

Resolution in USA State Legislature about Kashmir

3640. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of New Hamsphire in the U.S.A. has recently adopted a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to hold hearings on Kashmir so as to facilitate a just, peaceful and rapid end to this conflict;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the resolution; and

(c) the steps taken to apprise the State legislators and also the U.S. Administration on the established facts on Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) In February 2003, the State Legislature of New Hampshire in the jnited States adopted a non-binding Concunent Resolution requesting tt.d United States Congress to "initiate hearings to discern all relevant facts and circumstances attendant to the Kashmiri conflict so as to facilitate its just, peaceful, and rapid resolution".

(c) Government has taken steps through its diplomatic missions in the United States and the Indian-American community to apprise the